

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1           1. An elongated filter element for a rain gutter and made  
2 of open cell foam porous material, said elongated filter element  
3 having a cross section in the general form of a right triangle,  
4 said filter element having a generally horizontal upper side  
5 having front and rear edges, a generally vertical rear side  
6 perpendicular to said upper side and having an upper edge  
7 coincident with said rear edge of said upper side and a lower  
8 edge, an angled side extending between the front edge of said  
9 upper side and extending to a lower point forward of the lower  
10 edge of said rear side, and a bottom side parallel with said  
11 upper side and extending forward from said lower edge of said  
12 rear side to said lower point, said lower side being formed by  
13 the truncation of said generally triangular filter element  
14 between said rear side and said angled side.

1           2. The filter element of claim 1, wherein said open cell  
2 porous foam material has from about 10 to about 20 cells per  
3 square inch.

1           3.    The filter element of claim 2, wherein said open cell  
2 porous foam material is flexible polyether foam.

1           4.    The filter element of claim 4, wherein said filter  
2 element is about four feet in length.

1           5.    The filter element of claim 1, in combination with a  
2 rain gutter having a back wall, a bottom wall, and a front wall  
3 having an upper lip and defining a upper opening between said  
4 back wall and said front wall, said filter element being  
5 inserted into said rain gutter such that said upper side spans  
6 said upper opening between said back wall and said upper lip of  
7 said front wall, said inner side bearing against and coextensive  
8 with said back wall, and said bottom side bearing against and  
9 extending outward to said lower point along said gutter bottom  
10 wall, said outer angular side extending between said bottom side  
11 at said lower point to said front wall upper lip, defining a  
12 void between said outer angular side and said front wall and  
13 bottom wall of said rain gutter, whereby liquid may enter said  
14 gutter upper opening and travel through said filter element into  
15 said void, for flow to a gutter liquid outlet while leaves and  
16 other debris are trapped on the upper side of said filter  
17 element.

1           6.    The filter element of claim 3, in combination with a  
2 rain gutter having a back wall, a bottom wall, and a front wall  
3 having an upper lip and defining a upper opening between said  
4 back wall and said front wall, said filter element being  
5 inserted into said rain gutter such that said upper side spans  
6 said upper opening between said back wall and said upper lip of  
7 said front wall, said inner side bearing against and coextensive  
8 with said back wall, and said bottom side bearing against and  
9 extending outward to said lower point along said gutter bottom  
10 wall, said outer angular side extending between said bottom side  
11 at said lower point to said front wall upper lip, defining a  
12 void between said outer angular side and said front wall and  
13 bottom wall of said rain gutter, whereby liquid may enter said  
14 gutter upper opening and travel through said filter element into  
15 said void, for flow to a gutter liquid outlet while leaves and  
16 other debris are trapped on the upper side of said filter  
17 element.

1           7.    The combined filter element and gutter of claim 5,  
2 wherein said gutter has an inner lip portion extending inward  
3 and downward from said front upper lip so as to bear against  
4 said upper side of said filter element.

1        8.    The combined filter element and gutter of claim 5,  
2 wherein said gutter is mounted on a building structure below the  
3 eave of a roof such that rainwater draining from said roof  
4 enters said gutter through said filter upper side.

1        9.    The combined filter element and gutter of claim 8,  
2 further comprising a plurality of spaced gutter spikes extending  
3 through said gutter front upper lip, across said span formed  
4 between said front upper lip and said back wall, and through  
5 said back wall into said building structure for securing said  
6 gutter to said building structure, said filter element fitting  
7 below said gutter spikes.

1        10.   The combined filter element and gutter of claim 6,  
2 wherein said filter elements are about four feet in length and a  
3 plurality of filter elements are inserted end to end into a  
4 length of said gutter so as to extend the full length of said  
5 gutter.

1        11.   The combined filter element and gutter of claim 10  
2 wherein said filter elements are easily removed from the gutter  
3 for cleaning and are easily reinstalled into the gutter.